

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 02102 250835Z

15

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 041228

O 250800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9681

S E C R E T LISBON 2102

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH CHIEF OF RHODESIAN MISSION

REF: STATE 104358

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF MAY 24, RHODESIAN MISSION CHIEF EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ENCROACHMENTS BY COMMUNISM IN MOZAMBIQUE AS RESULT OF FUTURE PORTUGUESE DECISION TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO MOZAMBIQUE. RHODESIAN'S VIEWS INCLUDED FAMILIAR THEMES OF STRATEGIC VALUE CAPE ROUTE TO WEST, ETC. EMBOFF AGREED REPORT REMARKS TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

1. POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF MET WITH COL. KNOX, CHIEF OF RHODESIAN MISSION IN LISBON, FOR 30 MINUTES MAY 24 AT ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT'S COUNTRY HOUSE IN LISBON SUBURBS. KNOX WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH USG REP. EMBOFF MADE IT CLEAR AT OUTSET THAT HIS MANDATE EXTENDED ONLY TO REPORTING KNOX'S VIEWS. KNOX THEN DESCRIBED HIS CONCERNS OVER EFFECT PORTUGUESE COUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. KNOX SAID RECENT STATEMENT BY INTER-TERRITORIAL COORDINATION MINISTER IN LOURENCO MARQUES THAT THERE WOULD BE REFERENDUM IN MOZAMBIQUE WITHIN ONE YEAR WAS OF GRAVE CONCERN. HE WAS PERSUADED THAT AN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD FALL PREY TO COMMUNISM. HE SAID COMMUNIST INFLUENCE WOULD GROW FROM DIRECT TIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 02102 250835Z

BETWEEN PRO-COMMUNIST BLACK GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE AND USSR, WHICH

WOULD SEEK INFLUENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE TO COUNTER CHINESE INFLUENCE IN TANZANIA AND ELSEWHERE.

3. KNOX SAID RE-OPENED SUEZ CANAL WOULD ALLOW USSR TO MOVE FLEET RAPIDLY FROM BLACK SEA BASES TO INDIAN OCEAN. SAID WITH LOSS TO WEST OF MOZAMBIQUE, BASES OF DIEGO SUAREZ AND DIEGO GARCIA WOULD BE ISOLATED AND INEFFECTUAL. NOTING PRESS REPORTS OF US INTEREST IN NACALA, KNOX ASKED WHETHER THIS TRUE. EMBOFF SAID THIS PURE SPECULATION. KNOX SAID REAL GOAL OF USSR IS SOUTH AFRICA WITH ITS IMMENSE WEALTH AND COMMANDING STRATEGIC POSITION. KNOX SAID SOVIET CONTROL OF PORTS IN MOZAMBIQUE WOULD GIVE IT STRANGLE HOLD ON WEST'S OIL LIFELINE, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE AROUND CAPE AFTER SUEZ RE-OPENED.

4. KNOX SAID HE HAD MET RECENTLY WITH PRESIDENT SPINOLA. SAID SPINOLA SPOKE OF HIS DETERMINATION "NOT TO ABANDON" THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. KNOX SAID HE FELT PRESIDENT SINCERE, BUT FOUND IT HARD TO RECONCILE SPINOLA STATEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SELF-DETERMINATION, WITH ONE MAN ONE VOTE.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF HIS STATEMENT KNOX ASKED WHETHER US HAD VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES. EMBOFF SAID THESE QUESTIONS OF COURSE OF CONCERN BUT THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS RULED OUT COMMENT. KNOX SAID HE THOUGHT IT USEFUL "TO HAVE THIS CHANNEL OPEN" AND SAID THAT IF WASHINGTON HAS RESPONSE HE COULD BE CONTACTED THROUGH ROOSEVELT. EMBOFF REITERATED HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO REPORT KNOX'S VIEWS AT THIS ONE MEETING AND WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON POSSIBLE REPLY.

6. COMMENT: KNOX MADE NO DIRECT REQUEST DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION. OTHER THAN TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN, WE GUESS HIS PURPOSE MAY BE TO BEGIN OPENING SOME TYPE OF CHANNEL WITH THIS EMBASSY. SCOTT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON02102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740131-1052
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740517/aaaaaonb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 104358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH CHIEF OF RHODESIAN MISSION
TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, PO, MZ, (KNOX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005